



3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>

December 20-21, 2014

DATE

Celebrate Jesus' Birth!

LESSON TITLE

Matthew 1:21  
Adventure Bible (p. 1052)

WHERE TO FIND IT

The promised Rescuer is here!

MAIN POINT

## schedule

**Connect Time (15 minutes):** Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

**Large Group (30 minutes):** Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

**Small Group (15 minutes):** Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

## tips

Today, we're celebrating that Jesus is here! Welcome kids joyfully, as if we're in the midst of a party. Try to set an excited/upbeat tone in the room.

## check-in/out

Ask kids to show the cards they made to their parents. Hopefully, it'll spark conversations about Jesus.

## large group heads up

Christmas is nearly here, so we're spending a lot of time focusing in on the main point: Jesus the Rescuer is here!



## connect time

**GOAL:** *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

***\*The first slide of the Keynote has 13 minutes of Christmas music. Play it while kids come up with holiday words!***

### **HOLIDAY ABC's**

- Put kids in teams of 2-4
- Give each team a piece of **blank paper**
- **Draw** the alphabet vertically down the side of the paper
- Their goal is to come up with a holiday word that relates to each letter
- Help them if they're having trouble!
- Some of the words they come up with may seem like a bit of a stretch, but that just adds to the fun.

***\*They don't need to bring their paper to Large Group.***

**Ask them about the best/worst parts of their week and remind them of your expectations for their behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.**



## instructions

**Goal:** Kids will (1) Retell the story of Jesus' birth, including details specifically included in the Bible, excluding extra added details, (2) understand the significance of Jesus' birth as our long promised rescuer and (3) identify ways they can spread the love and joy of Jesus' birth to others.

**Why?** Really only one Christmas detail matters. We want to focus in on that today.

**Tips:** Question #3 invites you to share salvation with kids. There's no "right" way to explain this to kids. Just be open and honest and ask the Holy Spirit to give you the words to say.

## small group

### REVIEW/DIG DEEPER

1. What are some new things we learned about what the Bible actually says happened when Jesus was born? Tell me some things we know for sure (refer to Matthew 1 and Luke 2 if you're not sure).
2. What is the most important part of this story?
3. How does it make you feel that Jesus was born and he is here to rescue you from all of your sins? Do you know what that means? Does anybody have questions?
4. How can we remember that Christmas is about Jesus? (Brainstorm together.)

### CHRISTMAS CARDS

- Let kids choose a **red or green ¼ sheet of paper**.
- Choose **ONE** way you want to remember that Christmas is about Jesus (from group brainstorm).
- **Write/draw** that on the card.
- Copy **Matthew 1:21** on the other side of the card.

**\*Pray with the kids, thanking God for sending Jesus, asking that he help us remember him this week. This could also be a great time to ask for any special prayers/needs kids in the group may request for the upcoming weeks.**

*Extra time? Play Holiday ABC's again. But this time, split your small group into teams and have them race.*

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## special notes

Today, we want to focus on the one important detail about Christmas: Jesus the Rescuer was born. Nothing else matters.

## presenter tips

Watch today's video ahead of time, so that you are prepared to talk about which details are or are not in the Bible.

## script

### \*Click to play intro song

Welcome to Kids Club! I'm so excited to have each of you here today. You know we're pretty close to Christmas, aren't we? So let's have a little fun! I want to hear some of your holiday words. Let's go through the alphabet. I'm going to yell out a letter and you yell out a word. Ready? (*Go through this fairly quickly. But it's OK to spend 5-7 minutes just having some fun with the holiday.*) Awesome. You guys are good at this!

### THE TRUE STORY OF JESUS'S BIRTH

Now, probably a lot of you have heard the story—or at least part of the story—of the first Christmas. I'm guessing that some of you could even retell the story right now, RIGHT? (Let kids think; don't force anyone to retell it.) (Shout back): Well, I bet you can't! At least, I bet not completely according to the Bible. That's because a lot of the details that often get told today aren't exactly right. There are parts of it that the Bible tells us are true, and there are parts that may have been guesses or may have been added over the years as the story continues to be told.

We are going to watch a video in just a moment that is going to set us straight. It is going to review the story of Jesus's birth and it will focus on what parts of that story actually came from the Bible. It will also help us to focus on what is truly important in this story and why it is such an important story that we continue to celebrate over two thousand years later!

*As you watch, pay close attention to what surprises you about what the Bible says really happened. Be ready to share any ideas that are new to you!*

### Video: Retooning Christmas

So what surprised you about that video? What was different about it than the story you are used to hearing? (Let kids share.)



## script continued

### WHAT REALLY MATTERS

Even though there are many parts of the story of Christmas often told today that are not actually from the Bible, we learned that the most *important* parts of the story can be found in the Bible. We know that God kept Mary and Joseph safe as they traveled to Bethlehem where Jesus the savior was born. So does it really matter how they got there? Whether they rode a donkey or a wagon? If they were in a stable or cave? Or how many wise men brought the three gifts? No! Because the most important parts of this wonderful story are right there in the Bible.

Think for a moment: What is the most important part of this story? Why is Christmas such an amazing and wonderful thing to celebrate? (Allow kids time to process quietly, then have them turn and whisper with a friend. Allow 2-3 kids to share out loud.) That's right, Jesus came! It doesn't matter exactly how, except that He was God's Son and He came in the ways that God had promised.

Speaking of what the Bible really says, let's review our verse together:

**SLIDE: Matthew 1:21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus because he will save his people from their sins.**

Why do you think that verse is so important? (Let kids respond.) Yes! It is important because it tells us that Jesus will be the rescuer everyone had been waiting for. He will save his people from their sins. This was such good news because everyone had been waiting for SO long for the rescuer to save them. This verse tells us how much God loves us. He loves us so much that He sent Jesus to earth to be our Savior.

### ALL THAT MATTERS

In fact, Jesus' birth is literally the **ONLY** thing about Christmas that matters. Just like it doesn't matter if Jesus was born in a cave or a stable or whether there were three wise men or three hundred, it doesn't matter if you get ten presents or zero. It doesn't matter if you get to spend Christmas with cousins who you love or have to spend it with family members you don't really enjoy being with.

You know, I've had some really great Christmases...and some not-so-great Christmases. (*Share about a Christmas that was not so great.*) But in all of them, I was celebrating that Jesus the Rescuer was born. And that's the **ONE** thing that matters! Sometimes a lot of presents and fun stuff can make us forget about Jesus. Other times, family problems or tough stuff can make us forget about Jesus. No matter what's going on with us this year, let's try to focus on Jesus.

### RESPONDING TO THE RESCUER

Let's take a moment now to think about the fact the Jesus was willing to be born as a baby and grow up like us, in order to rescue us. Let's think about how he was God's very own son, willing to be a human and get sick and tired and hurt, even made fun of, just to be with us. And let's think about that amazing, wonderful night he was born.



## script continued

We're going to listen to a famous Christmas song now. You can lay down and close your eyes or watch the screen. But as you listen, just say "thank you" in your heart. You can say "thank you" to God for sending Jesus, "thank you" to Jesus for coming, or even list specific things you're thankful for in your head. No matter what's going on this Christmas, Jesus came to rescue us and let's focus on Him and his goodness.

### **Music Video: Silent Night**

Wow, I'm so thankful that Jesus came to rescue us. And I can't WAIT to celebrate that at Christmas! Let's sing another Christmas carol. You can watch or sing along, whatever you want.

### **Music Video: Joy to the World**

### **PRAYER**

Before we go to small group, let's take a minute to pray. (You can call on a volunteer to lead a prayer, thanking God for fulfilling his promise and sending a rescuer or you can pray out loud with everyone.) *God, thank you so much for sending your son Jesus to be born on earth and to rescue us and be the savior you promised. Help us spread the love and joy of this amazing gift to those around us this Christmas. Amen!*



**script continued**

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# PREP needs



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## connect time supplies

Per 2 kids:

1 blank sheet of paper  
Pens / Markers

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## small group supplies

Per kid

1/4 sheet of paper (red or green)

Per group

Markers  
Adventure Bible (p. 1052)  
Matthew 1:21 verse card (reused)

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## large group supplies

Adventure Bible (p. 1052)

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## a/v needs

1. Christmas intro music: Slide with this loop: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AzA-MwsSmM>
2. Video: Retooning Christmas ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-4y5mK\\_o9E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-4y5mK_o9E))
3. SLIDE: Matthew 1:21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.
4. Music Video: Silent Night ([http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6ml\\_YbgJsQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6ml_YbgJsQ))
5. Music Video: Joy to the World (<http://vimeo.com/49471501>)

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## connect questions

Tell me the Christmas story.  
How can we share the story with others?

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## parent page

Daily Talk Starts – separate doc